

# DUXBURY BEACH

Duxbury Clipper

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## Q&A on the Beach Access Rights Committee

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**What is the dog ban and when does it go into effect?**

As it stands now, dogs, even if leashed, will be absolutely banned from the entire beach and the beach access road from April 1 through August 31.

**Did a dog destroy a piping plover or a nest?**

No, this ban came as a result of the death of two plover chicks by a vehicle during the search and rescue on Duxbury Beach last summer. It is undisputed that both chicks were killed by a vehicle. The connection to dogs is illogical, and the ban appears to be a first step toward limiting beach access to people and vehicles. Otherwise, it makes absolutely no sense. Dogs have never been known to kill a plover or destroy a plover nest at Duxbury Beach, according to surveys and reports prepared by the state environmental authorities.

**What is B.A.R.C. and what are you hoping to accomplish?**

B.A.R.C. stands for Beach Access Rights Committee, which is the group we formed to both oppose the dog ban and

keep an eye on issues affecting future beach access rights. We know that the Harbormaster and his staff do a wonderful job at the beach, and, in the past, enforcing the leash law did not have to be a priority because most dog owners acted responsibly at the beach. Now, even though the dog ban is not a logical response to the death of those plovers last year, we realize that a more strict enforcement of the existing leash law is necessary. Since the dog ban was imposed without first trying to enforce the existing leash law, we would like to replace the ban with a plan to help the Harbormaster enforce the currently existing leash law. We will be presenting the proposal for this plan to the Duxbury Beach Reservation, which owns the beach, on Tuesday, February 26.

**Are you concerned about the piping plovers?**

Yes, and B.A.R.C. respects all animals. We feel strongly that people, dogs, and wildlife should be allowed to continue to successfully coexist at Duxbury Beach.

**Is there any chance that the selectmen will reverse**

**their decision?**

According to the Clipper and conversations we have had with a Selectman, the Selectmen imposed the ban at the request of the Reservation and they will repeal the ban if the Reservation asks them to do so.

**What do you say to people who really don't like dogs loose on the beach?**

I agree and for everyone's sake, including the dogs', the leash law should be enforced. According to our proposal, if a dog owner lets his dog run loose on the beach, he would lose his right to bring his dog to Duxbury Beach for the rest of the season.

**What do you say to people who support the dog ban because they believe there is a problem with what dogs leave behind?**

The reason for the ban has nothing to do with what dogs leave behind. All of us should make a better effort to keep the beach clean, including picking up food wrappers, drink containers, and uneaten food. In fact, food left behind actually attracts crows, gulls and other predators of the piping plover, so this type of litter may actu-

ally provide support for a ban of people on the beach in the future. B.A.R.C. strongly supports the pooper-scooper warrant and we feel that it is imperative that all dog owners pick up after their dogs, both at the beach and elsewhere in town.

**What is the next step for B.A.R.C.?**

Our efforts are continuing and our next step is the "B.A.R.C. Against the Dog Ban" dog walk on Duxbury Beach on Sunday, March 3 at 1:00 p.m. It will be a great opportunity to show support for this cause. Everyone is invited to participate, whether or not they have a dog or live in Duxbury. If you support our efforts to get the dog ban repealed, you should join us on Sunday.

**If people agree with your goals, what should they do?**

Anyone interested in what B.A.R.C. is doing should come to the dog walk on Sunday, e-mail me at [duxburydogs@yahoo.com](mailto:duxburydogs@yahoo.com), and visit our new website at [www.save-duxburybeach.org](http://www.save-duxburybeach.org).